



# Tea Area School District No. 41-5

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To Whom It May Concern:

Tea Area Schools strongly endorse the non-profit organization, Dakota Kids. Aaron Maguire of Dakota Kids has presented a 12 session wellness lifestyle program into the Tea Area after-school program for 3rd through 5th grade students this spring. The Dakota Kids program provides vital information on nutrition and fitness to students. This program allows students to start the process of thinking about what they are putting into their bodies... and how it may affect them both now and later in their lives. The goal of the program is to help students make better nutritional choices. The program also has a fitness component that students actually do with Aaron during the classroom presentation. The kids really enjoy the physical activities that occur during the lessons!

Goal setting and team building are key components to the Dakota Kids program. Dakota Kids provides opportunities for the students to set goals for themselves and work as a team to complete a task. A powerful component of Dakota Kids is what Aaron calls Affirmations. During Affirmations, students gather together at the end of each session as Aaron presents them with positive comments about who they are and what they have accomplished. Affirmations are designed to help students generalize what they have learned that day into other situations throughout the rest of their day and into their everyday lives.

Staff and parents give the Dakota Kids program rave reviews as to the positive impact it is having on the lives of our children. After seeing first-hand the positive impact of the program, the Tea Area School Leadership Team is looking for ways to implement elements of the Dakota Kids concept into our curriculum to benefit all of our students. For example, Aaron has expressed an interest in helping us train secondary-age students for active involvement in a student-led wellness committee. I believe that the partnership between Tea Area Schools and Dakota Kids will help our children live more a healthy lifestyle. I have personally observed Aaron present the Dakota Kids program to our students and have seen their enthusiastic response to the positive wellness message. I heartily endorse Aaron Maguire and the Dakota Kids program for its ability to provide high interest educational experiences that leave a lasting impact on student choices and student health.

Sincerely,

Jerry A. Schutz  
Superintendent

*To educate and empower each student for success in a global society.*